

Sow One Billion Specification on Portal Data Exchange

May 13, 2003

Design by: AW3C Tech Committee

Document Writer: Gordon Harty (gordonh@TAGnet.org)

Version: 1.0

Abstract: This document defines the exchange of data from and to the Sow One Billion Portal (The Portal). The purpose of the exchange is for the collection of statistics about the success of Bible Studies directed through the Portal. User information is sent to the specific Bible Study system. As the user progresses through the Bible Studies, information is sent back to the Portal (by email).

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Sow One Billion Portal (the Portal) will be receiving responses to the brochures handed out. When the user types in the URL found on the brochure, the first language shown will be the same as was used on the brochure. The user can then choose from the different Bible Study resources for that language. The user can also choose other languages to find resources in other languages. The user will select one of the resources for Bible Studies. A unique user Id, language and other information will be sent to the Bible Study site.

The Bible Study site will then serve the Bible Study to the user as usual. As the user progresses through Bible lessons, information about that user, referenced by the User Id, will be sent back to the Portal. The information sent back will indicate the topic of the lesson, lesson number and other information needed to gather statistics about how many Bible lessons were served, how many have completed a whole series, etc.

1.2 Design Goals

This design is intended to both gather the statistics needed reliably and to affect each Bible Study system as little as possible. Each Bible Study system will need to write some software but we expect it should be small and simple.

1.3 Limitations

It will not be possible to use data returned to the portal to identify individual people. This was done on purpose to maintain the privacy of user's information. The whole purpose of the returned database is for statistics.

The portal will not report back data about a specific individual to an individual Bible Study system.

1.4 Availability of Statistics

Aggregate statistics will be made available back to all Bible Study systems participating. Sow One Billion administration will also have access to these statistics.

2.0 Data Sent to Bible Study Systems

The URL on the brochures handed out will contain a URL that arrives at a unique web page on the Portal. If the user does not have a cookie defined by the portal, a unique user Id will be created by the portal and placed in a cookie on the user's browser.

The user will then browse the pages on the portal, selecting their language, searching for Bible Study resources, etc (whatever is on the portal). When they have selected a Bible Study (or other) resource that is not on the portal, the following information will be included on the URL:

- The User Id (userid=123456). The userid will be a 32 bit number.
- The language selected by the user (lang=standard two letter language)
- URL used by the user to arrive at the portal (origurl=http://www.url...)
- Interest from the brochure that the user selected (interest=1). This will be the values 1 through 4 and will correspond to the 4 interest areas in the brochure. This is an optional field because the user may not specify their interest before selecting a resource.

Other fields may be added to the URL as needed by specific Bible Study systems. Any Bible Study system building to this specification should ignore any other fields on the URL.

The Portal would track the UserId and a connected IP address in a database. Only the IP address used when the UserId was created is tracked.

3.0 Data Return to the Portal

3.1 Statistics Request Sent To Remote Sites

Periodically (most likely daily) the Portal will request a statistics report from each Bible Study or other resource site that is included in the Portal. The request will be in the form of a URL

Data will be pulled off the individual participating organizations system by the portal using a post to a url containing the following parameters (all times are defined in epoch time):

- startDateTime=<time>
- endDateTime=<time>
- passwd=<password>

The remote site is expected to respond by email right away. After the initial post, the portal will retry for a response every 2 hours, 3 times until it receives the email. If the email is never received, then a problem report will be sent to the admin for the Bible School.

3.2 Response to Statistics Request

The response to the Portal request will be an email with an XML document as the contents. The email will contain information about how each user sent from the Portal is progressing through Bible Study. The information to the Portal is always referenced by the userid. Here is the format of the information returned to the Portal:

```
<Report ReportVersion="1.0">
  <SiteId="1234"/>
  <TimeOfReport>12345678</TimeOfReport>

  <EventList>
    <Event UserId="1234">
      <Topic>1234</Topic>
      <LessonNum>1234</LessonNum>
      <CourseNum>1234</CourseNum>
      <EventTypeId>1234</EventTypeId>
      <TimeOfEvent>123456789</TimeOfEvent>
      <PostalCode>1234</PostalCode>
    </Event>
  </EventList>
</Report>
```

Definition of each XML tag used above:

ReportVersion: Version of the report format. This will allow us to make changes in the future and allow software to support both new and old formats.

BibleStudyId: This will be some unique identifier assigned to each Bible Study system. The Portal will then know whom this report is from.

Date: Date when the report was created.

TimeOfReport: This is the GMT epoch format for time when this XML document was created. This is the native format of time found on nearly all systems (Windows, Mac and Unix). It is the number of seconds from Jan 1, 1970.

EventList: This wraps a list of updates.

Id: This is the User Id assigned by the Portal.

Topic: This is the topic of the Bible Study this event is about. A list of topics must be defined.

LessonNum: The lesson number relative to the lessons on this Bible system.

CourseNum: If a Bible Study system has more than one Bible study, this is a value to indicate which Bible study was used. Reordered or new versions of a course, the course should be given a new number.

EventId: This is the specific event that occurred for this user. The list of possible events are:

- Lesson Completed
- Lesson Partially Started but not Completed
- Requested a book
- Requested a pastor visit
- Completed a Bible Course
- Accepted Christ as their Savior
- Requested Baptism
- Was Baptized

TimeOfEvent: The date this event occurred in GMT time using the epoch time format. The same format as the TimeOfReport field.